

but not now," and died in their sins without God and without hope. Like you, they expected some day to repent but disregarded the "now."

Does your heart continue to rebel against God and his precious commandments? Are you still bent on serving Satan yet a while? If so, please notice the *reason* that God gives for you to repent. Please read slowly, thoughtfully, honestly; because this hour may fix your eternal destiny: "God—now—commandeth—all men—everywhere—to repent: Because—he hath appointed—a day in the which—he will judge the world." The day is appointed, the time is set, and he commands you to repent *now*. The only way for you to get rid of judgment is to repent. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Heb. 10:31. What a privilege to get rid of this fearful judgment by repenting now.

While the Holy Ghost is trying to get you to think seriously, listen to the wise man: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For (because) God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14.

Dear blood bought soul, do you believe these solemn truths? Then how dare you refuse for an hour to repent? "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1. This scripture has been fulfilled in millions of cases, and you will be no exception but will be suddenly destroyed unless you repent. Are your ears still closed, and your heart yet hardened against all these scriptures, or have you resolved that you will *now* repent? Knowing the deceitfulness of the natural heart and the lying suggestions of Satan trying to make you believe that there is "time enough yet," I feel led of the Lord to impress a little further the importance of *immediate repentance*.

John began his ministry with the cry of repentance, and he just kept it up. All that he did was to preach repentance and administer the baptism of repentance, until he met Christ, and then he said: "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." When he dropped out, Jesus took up the wilderness cry and all thru Judea, Samaria, and Galilee his cry was *repent*; he sent the twelve out with the same cry; the seventy elders proclaimed repentance everywhere they went; Peter on the day of pentecost when thousands were convicted of sin, said: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Paul took up the same cry: "God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." All thru the Gospel we find the cry of repentance; and so today every preacher and teacher should impress the immediate duty of repentance. Right views of God, sin, judgment, benefits of re-

ligion and future rewards will cause every sinner to repent. Every sinner because he does not love truth is made to believe lies that he might be damned. II Thess. 2:10, 11.

O, believe God, when he declares that his "word will not return void," but will be "life" or "death" to all who hear it and at any cost turn immediately from your sins to God. Having shown the importance of repentance we will now proceed to ascertain how to practically apply it.

I. What repentance is not. (1) The fear of God alone is not repentance. Because of the extreme selfishness of man, God must appeal to his fear as well as his love; but unless this fear will awaken a real love for God and right it will prove fruitless. All who are properly taught are afraid to do wrong. Hence one of the means necessary to true repentance. When the back woods preacher Cathcart hitched his horse on the ferry boat and collared the wicked ferryman and soused him in the water until he promised to be a Christian and would take all Methodist preachers across the river free instead of threatening to whip them, the frightened man kept his word, but this kind of fear is not God's way of leading men to repentance and rarely ever proves successful. (2) Earnest prayer with the expectancy of pardon is not repentance. The young ruler ran to Christ, fell on his knees, earnestly asked to be saved, and expected it; but when Jesus told him what true repentance was he arose and walked away to die in his sins. So with thousands today. Give the average seeker a Bible answer to repentance and he will arise from the altar of prayer and walk away. (3) Pray until you feel that your sins are forgiven is not repentance. The word feeling is but twice in the Word and does not refer to repentance. (4) Giving up all known sin and praying until you believe that you are saved is not repentance. (5) To believe the voice of a spirit that tells you that you are saved and at the same time refuse water baptism and other commands of God is not repentance. Spirits must be tried by the word of God. Any spirit that contradicts the Word cannot be of God, but is a lying spirit. (6) Great experience without a conviction of righteousness is not repentance. When one truly repents he is as willing to do what God commands as to give up what he forbids. (7) A partial surrender of the will to God is not repentance.

II. What repentance is. (1) Repentance is a turning from sin unto God. "An afterthought," a turning round, a complete unconditional surrender to God. It is clearly illustrated by Christ in Matt. 21:28, 29. "Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said I will not: but afterwards, he repented and went." He surrendered his will—changed his mind. This was a full surrender of his will to the will of God. When Christ asked the rich young man to make a full surrender he arose from his knees and walked away. Thousands who

kneel at the altar of prayer, ask them for an unconditional surrender to God's will and obey him in all things and they will deliberately arise, dry their tears and walk away. All such have never truly repented. (2) Repentance includes giving up all known sin and a readiness and a willingness to do at any cost the whole will of God. This includes right living. "The life is the light." "In him was life and the life was the light of men." (3) Repentance includes restitution. Thomas Oliver a Welsh cobbler spent most of his life in contracting debts. His uncle said to him, "Thou hast been so wicked that thou hast seen the devil." After he repented he said, "I felt like I had stolen every dollar." He inherited a small fortune. He bought a horse, saddle and bridle and went from town to town paying his debts. At last he sold his horse, saddle and bridle and walked from town to town settling little debts until every dollar was paid. This belongs to repentance. Every dollar gotten by fraud unless restored God will punish you for at the judgment. Make restitution. Better go to glory a beggar than to hell a millionaire. (3) If you genuinely repent you will make full confession of all sin. If you cover your sins God will uncover them at the bar of judgment: if you confess them Jesus will cover them forever with his blood. The impenitent gambler will declare that he does not know one card from another. He says this because he wants to continue gambling. He covers his sin. The habitual drunkard will say "I don't drink," or "I don't get drunk" but he will get drunk the very next time he has a chance. Let these men thoroughly repent. The gambler will say, "I was one of the worst sinners that ever lived. I was a miserable robber and gambler." The drunkard will say, "I was one of the greatest drunkards that ever breathed. I marvel that God would ever look at such a sinner." These men having fully repented confess to the bottom.

Reader don't lay this down or throw it away until you decide to repent. Don't fear to count the cost: this pearl of great price is worth more than all you have. What will it profit you if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?

Start now this very moment. Resolve that by God's help you will repent of all your sins, be willing to do God's whole will, and by faith accept Christ as your Savior for the rest of your life. May God's Holy Spirit draw you this very hour. Amen.

2424 N. 10th St., Philadelphia.

LED BUT NOT LEFT

C. H. WETTERBE

From childhood I have many times read the account in the New Testament of Christ's temptation in the wilderness by Satan, but today as I read it again I saw a truth in it which appealed to me with a force which I never before felt.

Matthew says: "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted